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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PEPR, XF, CY, GR, TU
 SUBJECT: CODEL TOWER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT EVREN:
 - LEBANON AND THE MIDDLE EAST

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)

2. CODEL TOWER MET WITH PRESIDENT EVREN ON FEBRUARY 14. THEY DISCUSSED LEBANON, SYRIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST AS FOLLOWS:

3. TOWER THANKED EVREN FOR USE OF INCIRLIK TO SUPPORT U.S. FORCES IN LEBANON. HE EXPLAINED THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS ARRANGEMENT TO THE U.S. AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE.

4. REGARDING LEBANON, EVREN STRESSED THE NEED TO RE-CONSTRUCT A MORE REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT AND TO REMOVE ALL FOREIGN TROOPS. EVREN BELIEVES THAT SYRIA MUST FEAR ISOLATION IN THE ARAB WORLD IF, IN THE EVENT ALL OTHER FOREIGN FORCES ARE REMOVED, SYRIAN TROOPS WERE TO REMAIN.

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5. IN RESPONSE TO TOWER'S QUESTION, EVREN SAID THAT THE U.S. SHOULD NOT FEAR THAT IT HAS LOST INFLUENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST BY WITHDRAWING THE MARINES FROM LEBANON TO THE SHIPS OFFSHORE. HE ADDED THAT THE MNF CAN'T PREVENT A WAR AND THAT IT WAS A WISE IDEA TO PULL OUT THE U.S. CONTINGENT.

6. REGARDING U.S. NAVAL FORCES OFF THE COAST OF LEBANON, EVREN EXPRESSED HIMSELF DOUBTFUL ABOUT THE UTILITY OF A CONTINUED MILITARY PRESENCE. IN HIS VIEW, THE INCREASED SHELLING BY THESE SHIPS COULD ONLY LEAD TO A MORE DIFFICULT SITUATION WHICH WOULD BE FRAUGHT WITH AN INCREASE IN ANTI-AMERICAN PROPAGANDA.

7. EVREN EXPRESSED HIMSELF GRATIFIED AT THE U.S.'S CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH THE SYRIANS.

8. EVREN GAVE IT AS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT IT IS THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE THAT POSES THE BASIC PROBLEM IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WITHOUT ITS RESOLUTION THERE WILL BE CON-

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TINUAL STRIFE IN THE REGION. THE U.S., BY ITS CONTINUING
SUPPORT OF ISRAEL, RISKS LOSING THE SUPPORT OF THE
MODERATE ARAB STATES.

9. THIS MESSAGE HAS NOT BEEN CLEARED WITH CODEL TOWER.
STRAUSZ-HUPE
END OF MESSAGE

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